

Women MPs of the world conference: strengthening visibility, driving change

Thursday 8 November 2018, House of Commons, Westminster

Group F: Ending violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Committee Room 10

This session will look at how MPs can drive efforts to end violence against women and girls.

Objectives

- Showcase examples of effective interventions and success stories of preventing violence that MPs can use to make the case for government action and to inspire others;
- Share emerging evidence on prevalence and on the variety of types of violence which occur; and
- Discuss strategies for how MPs can use this knowledge to help eliminate violence against women and girls globally.

Key questions for discussion

- How can MP's use their role to make the case that VAWG can be prevented and encourage governments to strive to meet SDG 5.2: eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual, and other types of, exploitation?
- Some women have a greater risk of experiencing violence, such as women with disabilities. How can we ensure these women are included in our work to end VAWG?
- What legislation in your country is tackling VAWG effectively and how can we ensure that it is properly implemented/enforced?
- How can women and their communities be empowered to openly discuss VAWG in their society?
- How can we bring legislation and social change together to change particularly deep-rooted norms around VAWG; such as FGM?

Please bring examples from your country, highlighting the successes as well as the learning that can be shared.

One in three women worldwide will experience violence in their lifetime - be it intimate partner violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation; child, early and forced marriage; or one of many other forms of violence. This makes violence against women and girls one of the most systemic and widespread human rights violations of our time.

It affects women and girls everywhere. And the costs are far reaching: it limits the potential of individuals, families, communities and economies. Girls and women who experience violence are less likely to complete their education, 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV, and are at increased risk of maternal mortality. For children exposed to violence, the long-term health and social impacts are similar to those of child abuse and neglect. For economies, the costs are estimated at between 1.2% and 3.7% of GDP.

And yet violence against women and girls is preventable. This session will explore how MPs can raise awareness of the scale of VAWG and the actions that governments, communities and civil society can take to prevent violence and support the survivors of violence.

Additional reading

- [What Works to Prevent Violence](#) is a UK Aid-funded innovative global programme working in 13 countries across the world producing ground breaking finding on effective intervention in low-middle income settings.
- [UK Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020](#). This strategy provides an overview of the wide range of actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls between 2016 and 2020. It was launched on 8 March 2016.